



Newsletter

Newsletter of the Wilderness Training Committee

Are You On **AUTO** Pilot?



www.WildernessTravelCourse.org
Vol 21, No. 3 / Summer 2010

WTC Newsletter

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See page 8 for contact info

WTC

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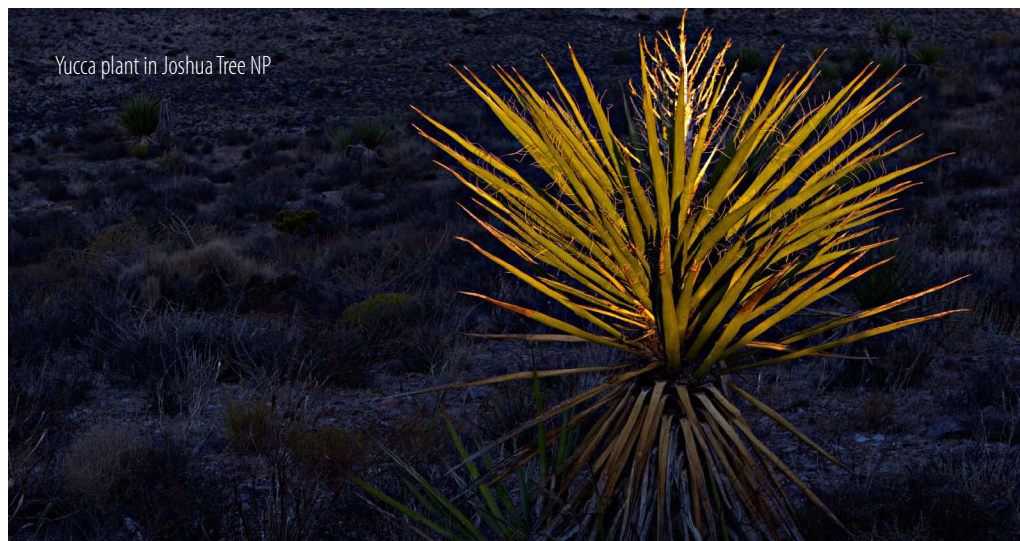
Adrienne Benedict

WTC Outings Co-Chair and Area Trips

Adrienne Benedict

Area Registrar

Ann Pedreschi Shields



Yucca plant in Joshua Tree NP

Graduation:

Graduations are currently scheduled for October 16 and 17. Keep in touch with your group leader for more information regarding the location and activities associated with graduation.

Trips Liability Notice

Liability Waiver Notice: To participate in a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To see a copy of this waiver prior to attending the outing, please see www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms, or contact the outings department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

Transportation Notice: In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that the participants make voluntary carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ridesharing or any similar arrangement is strictly a private arrangement among participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

California Sellers of Travel Disclaimer: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Headline Deadline

For publication in the Fall 2010 WTC Newsletter: Aug 15

For publication in the Winter 2010 WTC Newsletter: Nov 15

These are the last days for trips to be submitted to the WTC Outings Chair. Provisional trips and leaders should already have an LTC review. Restricted trips should prepare a Mountaineering Application.

For publication in the 315 Angeles Chapter Schedule (Nov 5 - Feb 28): Jul 9

For publication in the 316 Angeles Chapter Schedule (Mar 1 - Jun 30): Nov 9

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On The Cover

U.S. Air Force public domain photo edited by Gary Novotny

The WTC newsletter is published quarterly for students and staff of the Wilderness Training Committee and is distributed at class sites. It is also available in color on the WTC website: <http://www.wildernesstravelcourse.org/> as a download in PDF format. All questions, copy and photo submissions should be directed to Kay Novotny, WTC Newsletter Editor, at knovotny27@gmail.com or (562) 860 - 4078.

WTC Info Line: (310) 967 - 2029



Are You on Auto Pilot?

Wilderness Photography Part III - Text and photos by Gary Novotny

This article is the third in a series that gives advice on how to take better photographs in the wilderness. These articles are meant to take you to the next level in your picture taking by giving you simple rules to utilize. If you wish to learn more advanced techniques in photography, there are many fine books available to read. For those who have not read the first two articles, you may want to first read through these by going to the Newsletter archives located at <http://www.wildernesstravelcourse.org/the-course/newsletters> and choosing the 2009 Summer and the 2009 Fall newsletters.

Please note that the photographs shown in this article may lose some clarity due to the limitations of embedding photos in a PDF document. If you wish to see the originals from any of these pictures, just go to www.knovotny.smugmug.com and select the Wilderness Photography Part III link. As was the case in the previous articles, all of the photos included in this article were taken by me using my Canon PowerShot.

The article in this issue will show you how to get more "WOW" factor in your photographs. To get a better WOW factor, I will demonstrate the techniques on how to set the ISO level, how to create the proper Exposure and how to manipulate Depth of Field.

What is WOW? Well, it's not an acronym, so don't try to make three words out of it. I recently took a course in photographic composition. As part of the course, each student had to bring a few of their favorite photographs with them to be displayed on a big screen for everyone to see and critique. When my first photograph was displayed, many in the group said "Wow". This is the emotional response that you should be trying to get from anyone seeing your pictures. When you start hearing people say "wow" to your photos, you know that you have been successful in reaching the next level that is the focus of these articles.

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Outings

To reserve your place on an outing, follow the instructions listed in the trip description and provide all the information requested by the leader. If a SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) is requested, send a 9.5 x 4 inch envelope along with your information. Typically requested information includes name, address, home & work phone numbers, WTC leader's name, the name and date of the outing you wish to join, and your experience and physical conditioning. You may be placed on a waiting list if the number of persons interested in the trip is large. If you change your plans, it is very important that you contact the leaders to let them know your revised plans, even if you are on the waiting list.

Please see the Outings Leader Directory on page 8 for contact information.



Trips which qualify as WTC experience trips are identified by a backpack logo.



Training opportunities are identified by a book. WTC students should find many of these trips within their abilities. Snow travel training will require prior experience.



Outings of interest will be identified by binoculars. These do not qualify as WTC experience trips, but they are very interesting.



Last, but not least, the gnarly trips are identified by an ice-axe and crampons. These are technically challenging trips - typically not suited to WTC students. Strong WTC students with prior mountaineering experience may qualify.

June

Jun 11-13/Fri-Sun



WTC

I/Sugarbowl Dome (7,881')

On Fri easy to moderate paced backpack in Sequoia National Park 9 miles 750' gain passing giant sequoias to camp. On Sat day hike 4 mi on trail, 2 mi xc, 800' gain through thick woods to Sugarbowl Dome for tremendous views of the Great Western Divide. Sunday pack out. Send sase/esase, H&W phones, recent backpacking and conditioning info to Ldr: Linda Campbell. Asst: Neal Robbins.

Jun 12-13/Sat-Sun



WTC, Sierra Peaks, Palos Verdes – South Bay

M/Sirretta Peak (9,977') and Taylor Dome (8,802')

Get some introductory M-level climbing in the Domeland Wilderness of the Southern Sierra. Sat backpack from Big Meadow to Sirretta Pass, 2.5 mi, 1700'. We'll pitch tents; then continue 1 mi, 500' gain to Sirretta Peak. Happy hour follows at camp. Sun pack out to cars, drive short distance to TD trailhead, then climb 5 mi rt and 1200' gain to Taylor Dome. Comfort on easy 3rd class required, WTC students welcome. Send esase (preferable – bholchin@cox.net) or 2 sase, recent experience and conditioning, carpool info to Ldr: Barry Holchin. Co Ldr: Eric Scheidmantle.

Jun 12-13/Sat-Sun



WTC

I/San Jacinto Pk (10,804'), Jean Pk (10,670'), Marion Mtn (10,320'), Newton Drury (10,172)

Let the Palm Springs Tram take you up to the trailhead. This will be a moderately strenuous but picturesque route. Traveling the trail to Round Valley we will set up tents and resupply with water. We will travel on trail towards Jacinto and head south off trail to Jean Peak. We will head towards Newton Drury and if time allows Marion Mt. After our cross country travels we will head up the trail to San Jacinto Peak. Sat 6.5 mi 3000' gain (1.25 miles xc). Sun 5.5 mi 1100' gain. Permit limits group size. This trip fulfills requirement for graduation from WTC. Send esase/sase (email preferred) & conditioning to Ldr: Robert Gunn. Asst: Reggie Bulman.

Jun 12-13/Sat-Sun *Date Change*



WTC, Long Beach Group

I/Southern San Gorgonio romp

Southern San Gorgonio romp: Enjoy early summer in the high reaches of the San Gorgonio Wilderness at lesser-used Dobbs trail camp. Cross-country bag of a nearby named or unnamed peak; optional reconnoiter down streambed to numerous waterfalls. Geared toward WTC students for experience trips. Total distance for the weekend about 17 mi, elevation gain/loss about 5000'. Permit limits group size, WTC students given priority. Send name, contact & conditioning information to leader Sharon Moore. Ldr: Sharon Moore Co-Ldr: Sherry Ross.

June, continued

Jun 24-27/Thu-Sun *NEW!*



20's&30's

I/ Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Backpack

Explore the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness with the OCSS 20s30s on an easy paced backpack trip. Thurs. 6 mi of cross-country travel, 1080' gain backpack from Dinkey Creek trailhead (8600') cross country to Fingerbowl Lake (9680') in the Sierra National Forest. Fri. & Sat we'll day-hike cross country to 10 high Sierra mountain lakes. Optional climbs of Dogtooth Peak (10,302') or 3 Three Sisters (10,612'). \$5 permit fee. Email phone numbers, experience & recent conditioning to Ldr: Mountain Dave Kuhn. Asst Ldr: Dave Black.

Jun 25-27/Sat-Sun *NEW!*



Sierra Peaks, WTC

I/Hengst Pk (11,128'), Florence Pk (12,432'), Vandever Mt (11,947')

Help one leader bag his namesake peak in this challenging three day loop out of Mineral King. Day one we'll pack in to Upper Mosquito Lake and bag Hengst Peak (7 miles, 3500'), day two we will take an exploratory cross country route to Bullfrog Lakes (9 miles, 3500'), and day three we will finish up by bagging Florence and Vandever before descending to our cars (9 miles, 5000'). Send recent experience, conditioning, and carpool info to Ldr: Matthew Hengst Co-Ldr: James Montross

June 26-27/Sat-Sun *NEW!*



SPS WTC

MR/Mt Abbot (13,704')

Sat backpack from Rock Creek trailhead to camp at Ruby Lake 2 mi, 900' gain, Sun climb Mt Abbot hike 5 mi. rt. 2600' gain, and hike back to camp. Then hike 2 mi. back to trailhead. Trip restricted to Sierra club members having snow experience. Helmet, ice axe, crampons are required. Send email or SASE with Climbing Resume, Medical Form, SC#, ride share info. to Ldr: Jack Kieffer, Asst: Barry Holchin

Jun 26-28/Sat-Mon



Sierra Peaks

I/Olancha Pk (12,123')

Relaxed and enjoyable pace for climb of SPS Emblem Pk in the S Sierra. SPS intro trip geared to new SPS climbers and WTC students. Sat backpack 8 mi, 3900' gain from Sage Flat to base camp off PCT Trail at approx 9700'. Sun climb 2nd class Olancha, trail and x-country in 7 mi rt and 2400' of gain. Mon backpack out 8 miles and 3900' of loss. Total gain for wkend 6300' in 23 mi rt. Sat and Sun eve legendary community happy hours. Send sase, H&W and cell phones, recent cond, altitude experience, rideshare info to Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Jim Fleming.

July, continued

Jul 2-5/Fri-Mon



Backpacking Committee

I/Yosemite North Rim Bus Backpacking Trip

Leave Fri afternoon for a moderate 3-day trip from Porcupine Flat to see some of the most magnificent vistas from the North Rim of Yosemite National Park. View Half Dome, Clouds Rest, Glacier Point, Yosemite Falls from vantages not seen from the Valley floor. The backpack is 15 mi with 1700' gain/5800' loss from Porcupine Flat to Yosemite Valley. Please mail a SASE, your backpacking and cond. experience and your check payable to Sierra Club c/o David Meltzer, 611 E Pine Ave, El Segundo, CA 90245 to complete your reservation. I will forward you a confirmation if you are approved for the trip or on the waitlist. Fee includes bus ride, park entrance and permit fees and Mon dinner. \$210 with SC#/\$230 non-member (Sierra Club) I will forward additional information once approved for the trip. Ldrs: David Meltzer, Sridhar Gullapalli

Jul 9-11/Fri-Sun



WTC

I/Pear Lake Loop Backpack in Sequoia NP

Moderately strenuous but easy paced trip in spectacular Sequoia NP. Friday backpack 6 miles, 2300' gain to camp at Pear Lake (9500'), enjoying breath-taking views of the Kaweah River and Tokopah Valley. Saturday pack XC 6 miles, 2000' gain/loss exploring alpine tablelands on the way to camp near Alta Meadow. Sunday pack out 6 miles to trailhead with plenty of wildflowers and views of the Great Western Divide. WTC or equivalent required. Send email (preferred) or 2 lg sase with H/W phones, rideshare info, recent backpack experience/conditioning to Ldr: Dwain Roqué. Co-Ldr: Adrienne Benedict

Jul 10-11/Sat-Sun



WTC

I/San Jacinto (10,834'), Newton Drury Pk (10,160'), Jean Pk (10,670'), Marion Mtn (10,362')

12 mi rt, 5000' gain. The San Jacinto Wilderness will provide a fairly-strenuous overnight backpack featuring 3 cross-country peaks. We'll get our bearings and hike up Marion Mtn Trail to Little Round Valley to setup camp. Cross-country navigation and some rock scrambling will get us to Newton Drury Pk, Jean Pk, and Marion Mtn. Send email or sase with contact information and conditioning to Ldr: Dave Scobie. Asst: Robert Myers

Jul 10-11/Sat-Sun

NEW!



WTC

I/Muah Mountain (11,016')

Saturday meet at Horseshoe Meadows to backpack 5 miles, 600' gain, 800' loss to camp, mostly on PCT. Sat night happy hour. Sunday climb Muah Mtn., 2-1/2 miles rt, 1,400' gain; return to camp and pack out. Relaxed pace; many photo opportunities. To reserve email so-calgeogal@yahoo.com with your experience and conditioning. Co-Ldrs: Lisa Buckley and Gwen Sharp.

Jul 16-18/Fri-Sun



WTC, Long Beach Group, PV-South Bay

I/Muriel Peak (12,937')

Enjoy southern Humphries Basin and a climb of Muriel Peak via Alpine Col. Geared toward WTC students for experience trips. Total distance for the weekend about 18 mi, elevation gain/loss about 3,800'. Permit limits group size, WTC students given priority. Send name, contact & conditioning information, \$5 check made out to "WTC" to leader Sherry Ross. Leaders: Sherry Ross, Kent Schwitkis

Jul 17-18/Sat-Sun

NEW!



WTC, Sierra Peaks

I/Mt Silliman (11,188')

Perfect WTC experience or SPS intro trip. Leave Sat morning from Lodgepole Springs in Sequoia National Park. 3.5mi, 2000' gain, about half off-trail, before a relaxing happy hour at a splendid meadow next to Silliman Creek. Early Sun start up some class 2 granite friction slabs and grab brunch on the summit after 3.5 mi, 2400' gain. Descend and pack up camp, back to trailhead in timely fashion. Moderate pace, comfort with class 2 rock required. Send email and hiking/climbing resume to Ldr: Chris Cobb, Asst: Kathy Rich.

July/August

Jul 24/Sat

NEW!



Long Beach Group, WTC

O/Anderson Pk (10,840+'), Shields Pk (10,680')

Enjoy hiking a gradual although unrelenting but otherwise nice and usually well-maintained scenic trail to summit these two peaks in our local San Geronio Wilderness. Moderately-paced, but 17 miles total, with 4000' gain, and including about a half mile of trace trail. Permit limits group size, Forest parking permit required. Contact Ldr: John Hinz, or Co-Ldr: Jeff Kenyon.

July 24-25/Sat-Sun

NEW!



Sierra Peaks, WTC

I/Mt. Julius Caesar (13,220')

An intermediate backpack trip suitable for strong WTC students. Saturday pack in via the Pine Creek trail to Honeymoon Lake (5.3 miles, 3,000' gain) on trail. Sunday, head for Italy Pass and on to the summit of Julius Caesar on class 2 cross-country terrain (6 miles, 2500' round trip), return to camp, and then pack out to the cars. Send recent experience and conditioning, carpool info, and e-mail (preferred) or SASE to Ldr: Paul Garry, Asst: Bruce Michaels.

Jul 30-Aug 1/Fri-Sun



Long Beach, WTC

M/San Geronio Pk (11,499'), Jepson Pk (11,205'), Charlton Pk (10,806'), Little Charlton Pk (10,696')

Did you enjoy climbing the rock at J-Tree? Come gain more experience on class 3 rock by climbing Charlton Peak by the mountaineers' route. Fri, comfortably paced trail hike from South Fork to base camp, 6.5 mi, 2600' gain while enjoying our local San Geronio Wilderness. Sat, ascend 1600' on Charlton's north side, half of it class 3. Then go on to summit a bonus peak and the two highest peaks in Southern California by 3 miles of cross-country and some trail, 2700' total gain for the day. Hike back to camp, 5 miles on trail. Sun morning return to cars. WTC/equiv. reqd. Send 2 sase, phone & carpool info, and name of SC leader as reference to Ldr: John H. Asst: Mike Adams

Jul 30-Aug 1/Fri-Sun

NEW!



WTC

I/Thousand Island Lake, Mt. Davis (12,311')

Fri relaxed pace backpack 8-1/2 mi, 1,500' gain, via River Trail from Agnew Meadows to camp at Thousand Island Lake (9,840') in Ansel Adams Wilderness. Sat class 2 xc route to Mt. Davis via North Glacier Pass, 6 mi rt, 2,500' gain. This will be a long strenuous day, but the views will be well worth it! Sun pack out via very scenic portion of PCT. WTC or equivalent required; priority given to 2010 WTC students. Shuttle bus fee of \$7 from Mammoth Mtn ski area to trailhead required. Send e-mail (preferred) or SASE with contact info, experience, recent conditioning and WTC group leader info to Ldr: Melody Anderson. Co-Ldr: Dwain Roqué.

Jul 31- Aug 1/Sat-Sun



WAS, WTC

I/Cloudripper (13,525') Backpack

Join us to visit the South Lake area in the summer time. Climb Cloudripper peak and marvel at the grand views of the North Palisades and other peaks in John Muir Wilderness on this trip suitable for WTC students or equivalent. Sat backpack from South Lake 3+ mi, 1750' gain to basecamp. Sun climb Cloudripper peak 4 mi, 2500' gain rt, at a moderately paced, but strenuous high elevation hike with rock hopping and steep scree slopes. Then pack out to the trailhead late Sun afternoon. Good conditioning is a must. \$5 permit fee. Please send email with recent experience & conditioning, H&W phones, rideshare info to: Ldr: Doan-Trang Tran. Asst Ldr: Michael Dillenback.

Jul 31-Aug 1/Sat-Sun



WTC

I/Alta Peak (11,204')

Experience trip for leaders and WTC students. Sat backpack from Wolverton Trailhead in Sequoia National Park to camp at Pear Lake, 7 mi, 1700'. Sun climb Alta Peak, 5 mi rt, 1700', then pack out. Send 2 sase or 1 SASE and e-mail, \$5 permit fee, recent experience and conditioning, H&W phones, and rideshare info to Ldr: Neal Robbins. Co-Ldr: David Meltzer.

WTC Newsletter

July/August

Jul 31-Aug 1/Sat- **NEW!**



20's/30's

I/ Big Bear Cabin and Hiking Adventure

Leader has rented a 3 bedroom, 2 bath Big Bear cabin with full kitchen & hot tub that backs to the national forest next to Snow Summit Ski Area. Sat. 10am – pan for gold at the Big Bear Museum and take a driving tour to learn the history of the 1860 Holcomb Valley gold rush in the afternoon. Sat. 6pm – Bring food and drinks to share for the Saturday night BBQ & potluck. Sun. 9am Cross country hiking for a full day (7-8 miles) from Snow Summit to Grandview Point (~8,000). Cost: Free. Meeting location sent to participants before trip. Limit: 12 people. RSVP with conditioning to Ldr: Mountain Dave Kuhn, Asst. Ldr: Gary Novotny

Aug 1/Sun



LTC, WTC, Hundred Peaks, Desert Peaks, Sierra Peaks I/Mt. Pinos Navigation

Navigation noodle in Los Padres National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Kim Homan

Aug. 7-8/Sat-Sun **NEW!**



Sierra Peaks, WTC

I/M/North Peak (12,242')

Gourmet Backpack! Join us for Decadent Wilderness Weekend VIII. Sat backpack 3 mi, 500 ft gain from Saddlebag Lake to Conness Lakes for 5-star dining experience. Sun work off those calories with 1-mi, 1700' gain to North Peak. Depending on group's strength and experience we will take either the 2nd class southwest slope or the 3rd class southeast face. Send e-mail (preferred) or sase with H&W phones, recent conditioning, recent experience on 3rd class rock and your most outrageous culinary ideas to Ldr: Ron Campbell. Assts: Georgette Rieck, Ed Cottone, Lisa Buckley.

Aug 7-8/Sat-Sun **NEW!**



WTC, Sierra Peaks

I/Matterhorn (12,279')

Climb a beautiful SPS emblem peak in the eastern Sierra Nevada. From the trailhead at Twin Lakes, ascend about 2,500 ft. in 4 miles to camp and happy hour along Horse Creek. Sunday, hike cross-country across Horse Pass and ascend the class 2 southeast face of Matterhorn Peak, then pack out. Total statistics are 4500 ft. gain and 16 miles RT. Send contact info and climbing resume to Ldr: Joe Speigl, Co-Ldr: Bob Draney

Aug 13-15/Fri-Sun



WTC

I/Big Pine Lakes, Palisades Glacier Area

Backpack to explore the upper reaches of Big Pine Creek Basin and the Palisade Glacier with great views of some of the Sierra's high peaks. We will camp near Third Lake along the North Fork of Big Pine Creek. From our camp, we will ascend to explore Sam Mack Meadow and the glacial lakes at the base of Palisade Glacier (12,200'). Substantial cross-country travel over Class 2 terrain, including the possible climb of an unnamed peak in the vicinity. 16 mi rt, 4100' gain. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning and experience to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldr: Dwain Roque.

Aug 13 – 15/Fri – Sun



WTC

I/ Mt Stanford (N) (12,836')

Fri leisurely paced hike from Rock Creek to camp at Hilton Lakes, 5 mi, 1500' gain. Relax and enjoy Hilton Lakes...and happy hour! Sat, strenuous x-country boulder hop and scree/talus climb our way to the summit, 5 mi rt, 2500' gain, then back to lakes for another group happy hour. Sun pack out, 5 mi to cars. \$5 permit fee. Send email of experience, conditioning, and WTC group and leader name (if applicable) to Ldrs: Nicole Bunni and Kim Homan

Aug 14-15/Sat-Sun



WTC

I/Mount Morgan, (13,748')

Experience trip for leaders and WTC students. Sat backpack from Rock Creek trailhead to camp in Little Lakes Valley, 4 mi, 1000'. Sun climb Mount Morgan, 4 mi rt, 2500'; then pack out. Send 2 sase or 1 SASE and e-mail, \$5 permit fee, recent experience and conditioning, H&W phones, and rideshare info to Ldr: Neal Robbins. Co-Ldr: Mike Dillenback

August, continued

Aug 20-22/Fri-Sun



WTC

I/Pilot Knob (12,245 ft)

WTC experience trip, Eastern Sierra out of North Lake Trailhead. Moderately strenuous trip, good conditioning and high altitude experience a must. Fri backpack from North Lake Trailhead over Piute Pass @ 7 mi, 2,300' gain to camp near Lower Desolation Lake. Fri. evening happy hour. Sat early start hike to Pilot Knob, @7 mi rt cross country. Must be comfortable with class 2 rock. Return to camp for some r&r. Sun backpack out to cars. \$5 permit fee required. Send resume, experience and WTC leader name/group to Ldr: Cheryl McMurray (cherylamcmurray@gmail.com). Asst: Gary Novotny

Aug 20-22/Fri-Sun **NEW!**



WTC

I/Split Mt.(14,042')

Come join us in climbing up to one of California's 14'ers. Fri we will backpack 5 mi, 4000' gain to Red Lake; Sat climb to Split Mtn 4 mi rt, 3500' gain, return to camp; happy hour, both nights. Sun pack up and hike out. \$5 permit fee required. Send email or SASE and recent conditioning/ experience phones, rideshare info to Ldr: K C Reid, Co Ldrs: Jeff Zinn and Jack Kieffer

Aug 21-22/Sat-Sun **NEW!**



Sierra Peaks, WTC

MR/Whorl Mtn (12,033'), Matterhorn Pk (12,279')

Climb peaks in northern Yosemite. Great views. Meet at Mono Village trailhead, backpack to camp at Horse Creek Pass, 4 mi, 3500' gain. Sat pm climb class 2 Matterhorn Pk, 2 mi rt, 1700' from camp. Sun climb class 3 Whorl Mtn (4 mi rt, 1400'), return to camp, backpack out to cars and home. Restricted to Sierra Club members only. Comfort and experience on class 3 rock is required. Send email or sase, experience/conditioning, Sierra Club #, medical form, rideshare info to Ldr: Kathy Rich. Asst: Gary Schenk

Aug 21-23/Sat-Mon



Sierra Peaks

I/Red Slate Mtn (13,123')

SPS Intro trip geared to WTC students and prospective SPSers. Relaxed, causal, and enjoyable. Sat backpack up McGee Creek to McGee Lakes at 11,040', 7 mi, 2900' gain. Sun climb class 1 Mountaineers Peak, 8 mi rt, 2,200' gain, considerable cross country. Mon hike out. Legendary community happy hour Sat and Sun eve. Send SASE with \$5.00 permit fee, recent conditioning and high altitude experience, H, W and Cell phones, ride share info to Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Joe Wankum

Aug 27-29/Fri-Sun



WTC

I/Thousand Island Lake, Peak 10,344'

Friday backpack 8 mi, 2000' to camp at picturesque Thousand Island Lake in Ansel Adams Wilderness near Mammoth. Sat climb cross country, class 2 route to Peak 10,344', 6 mi rt, 800'. Sun pack out. Shuttle fee of \$7 from Mammoth Mountain to Agnew Meadows trailhead required. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldr: Sarah Myers Rebensdorf.

Aug 27-29/Fri-Sun **NEW!**



WTC

I/Four Gables (12,720 ft+)

Fri backpack 4 mi, into the beautiful John Muir Wilderness, 2000' gain to camp at Upper Horton Lake above the Buttermilks west of Bishop. Sat climb Four Gables via South Ridge, 2nd class strenuous steep talus slope. 6 mi rt, 2700' gain. Return to camp at Upper Horton Lake for Happy Hour. Sunday pack out. Drive to trail head is 6+ miles of dirt road. WTC or equiv required. Send experience, contact info to wende793@aol.com. Ldr: Wende Berke, Asst: Gerard Lewis.

Aug 27-29/Fri-Sun **NEW!**



WTC

I/20 Lakes Basin Photography / Navigation Backpack

Spend a weekend photographing and practicing navigation in this gorgeous part of the Hoover Wilderness near Yosemite's eastern entrance. Friday hike or boat from Saddlebag Lake 2.5 miles to camp at one of the lakes and enjoy shared quesadillas; Saturday explore the lakes, find a mine and a hidden lake, approx 5 miles of hiking, followed by happy hour festivities. Sunday, pack out. Send experience and conditioning info to Ldr: Jane Simpson, Co-Ldr: Adrienne Benedict.

August/September

Aug 27-29/Fri-Sun NEW!



WTC

I/Cirque Peak (12,900')

What is a cirque anyway? Learn about cirques and other geologic features in the area on a relaxed backpack from Horseshoe Meadows to Chicken Springs Lake. Friday pack in 4 mi., 1,300' gain. Sat. climb Cirque Pk., 5 mi RT (1,600' gain). Group happy hour Sat. evening. Sunday backpack 4 mi. (1,300' loss) back to trailhead. Send sase with \$5 permit fee, conditioning, and experience to Gwen Sharp. Co-Ldrs: Gwen Sharp and Lisa Buckley.

Aug 28-29/Sat-Sun NEW!



Sierra Peaks, WTC

MR/Dragon Peak (12,995'), Mount Gould (13,005'), Kearsarge Peak (12,598')

Join us for a jovial two day, three peak assault out of Onion Valley. We'll pack in early Saturday to our lakeside camp (2.5 miles, 2000') and bag Dragon and Gould via a loop involving some adventurous 3rd class (6 miles, 3000') before returning to camp for a well deserved happy hour. Sunday wake up early and join us for a parting shot at Kearsarge Peak (2 miles, 2400') before returning to camp and packing out. Helmets and experience with exposed 3rd class rock required. Medical Form required. Send climbing resume, Sierra Club number, and contact information to Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Co-Ldr: Kathy Rich

Sep 3-5/Fri-Sun NEW!



WTC, Sierra Peaks

I/Mt Conness Backpack and Climb

Leaving Friday morning from Tuolumne Meadows, hike 5 miles, gaining 1200 ft to Young Lakes. Saturday will be spent climbing Mt Conness from its southern flank. The route involves cross-country and some class 2 scrambling. (7 miles round trip, 3000 ft gain). Return to Young Lakes for happy hour and spending the night. Sunday, group will pack out. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Bob Draney. Co-Ldr: Patrick McKusky.

Sep 3-6/Fri-Mon NEW!



Wilderness Adventures, WTC

O/I/Boothe Lake, Rafferty and Johnson Peaks

Yosemite National Park Backpack Bus Trip. Join us for a backpack to these seldom climbed peaks in the Yosemite High Country. Leave Fri eve on chartered bus. Sat am moderately paced 7 mi, 1200' gain backpack from Tuolumne Meadows to less-visited Boothe Lake. Sun xc day-hike to Rafferty (11,096') and Johnson (11,064') Peaks, 6 mi rt, 2200' elevation gain, at a moderate pace, but with some rock scrambling and slab walking to reach both summits. Mon am break camp and trek downhill 7 mi to Tuolumne Meadows to catch the bus. Permit availability may change route. Cost includes bus, bus snacks, all fees, dinner on way home. After Aug 3, 10% cancellation penalty; balance refundable only if trip is full and suitable replacement is found. Send email or 2 sase, recent backpacking experience, contact info, \$195 with SC#/\$215 non-member (Wilderness Adventures) to Ldr: David Coplen. Co-Ldr: Doan-Trang Tran

Sep 5-6/Sun-Mon NEW!



Wilderness Adventures, WTC

O/Tuolumne Meadows Day Hikes Bus Trip

Leave Fri eve on our chartered bus, for a 3-day high altitude camping and day hiking trip in Yosemite's Tuolumne and North Rim country. Stay 2 nights in a campground near Tioga Rd, with the bus dropping us nearby resulting in a short walk to camp. Gourmet potluck dinner Sat and Sun. Day hikes may include Glen Aulin, Vogelsang, North Dome, Indian Rock and other scenic highlights. Includes bus, bus snacks, all fees, dinner on way home. After Aug 3, 10% cancellation penalty; balance refundable only if trip is full and suitable replacement is found. Send email or 2 sase, recent backpacking experience, contact info, \$215 with SC#/\$235 nonmember (Wilderness Adventures) to Ldr: Chris Spisak. Co-Ldr: Lilly Fukui

September 5-6/Sun-Mon NEW!



WTC

I: Mount Stanford (North), (12,838')

Experience trip for WTC students and leaders. Sun backpack to western most Hilton Lake, 6 mi, 1400'. Mon climb Mount Stanford, 5 mi rt, 2500', then pack out. \$5 permit fee. Send e-mail with recent experience and conditioning, H&W phones, and ride share info to Ldr: Jackie Zhu. Asst-Ldr: Jack Kieffer.

September, continued

Sep 11-13/Sat-Mon NEW!



WTC, Sierra Peaks

I/Mt. Morgan (N) (13,002')

Saturday backpack 5 mi and 800' elevation gain/loss on trail from Rock Creek to camp at Davis Lake and then relax, swim, fish or explore nearby waterfalls and Hilton Lakes. Sunday climb Mt Morgan (N) 3 mi rt and 3,000' of elevation gain, returning on fun sandy slope (mostly). Monday backpack out. Send email with recent experience and conditioning to leader. \$20 deposit to hold your place (payable to WTC), to be refunded when trip begins, plus \$5 permit fee due at trailhead. Ldr: Charles Irving, Asst Ldrs: Daniel Kinzek and Jane Simpson

Sep 17/Fri



WTC, DPS

I/White Mountain Peak (14,256')

Join us on this hike to the third highest peak in California and highest desert peak in the United States. We will start at the locked gate to the Barcroft Station and our hike will entail 15 mi rt, 2,600' elevation gain. Reaching the trailhead requires a long dirt road drive through the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. If time permits, we may climb Mount Barcroft (13,040') on the way back to the trailhead. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldr: Reggie Bulman.

Sep 17-19/Fri-Sun



WTC

I/Twin Lakes-Silliman NavPack Sequoia NP

Improve your navigation skills, get a peak and get happy on a moderately paced 6.5 mi, 2600' gain backpack to beautiful Twin Lakes. Sat xc explore both sides of Silliman Crest, and climb a no-name peak, 1400' net gain via 7 mi loop. Return to camp for shared treats and gourmet quesadillas. Sun head home. Comfort on class 2 climbing required. No tigers please. Send check for \$7 permit fee (payable to WTC), 1 sase (or email), contact & rideshare info, recent backpacking & conditioning experience to Ldr: Jane Simpson. Co-Ldr: Adrienne Benedict

Sep 17 - 19/Fri-Sun



WTC, SPS, Long Beach

I/Red Slate Mountain (13,123')

Enjoy a late summer weekend in this colorful, high-elevation setting. Friday morning hike 7.5 miles 2500' gain up McGee Creek through aspens, pines and meadows to the beautiful red rock mountains of upper McGee Creek Canyon. We'll camp alongside Big McGee Lake at 10,500' elevation. Sat. morning hike to McGee Pass, climb Red Slate Mountain (Class 2, approx. 2700' gain, 6 miles roundtrip), and return to camp for happy hour. Sunday morning hike out. Total mileage approx. 25 miles roundtrip, 5200' gain, moderate pace. \$5 permit fee collected at trailhead. E-mail both leaders with experience and conditioning. Ldrs: Sharon Moore and Pat Arredondo

Sep 18-19/Sat-Sun CANCELLED

WTC

I/Split Mtn (14,042')

Climb California's 10th highest peak in the Palisades region of the Sierras. Lots of elevation gain but the views are worth it. Sat backpack to Red Lake (5 mi, 4000' gain). Sun climb Split (2 mi, 3500' gain, class 2), and pack out. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldr: Reggie Bulman

Sep 17-19/Fri-Sun NEW!



Sierra Peaks, WTC

I/Laurel (11,812'), Bloody (12,552')

Join us for a moderate jaunt up two peaks via the scenic Convict Canyon. Friday hike in (7mi, 3300' gain) to set up camp near Lake Genevieve then Saturday climb Laurel & Bloody (8.6 mi, 4700') before returning to camp for the traditional happy hour and pack out the next morning. Bring a fishing pole to take advantage of evening fishing opportunities. Send recent experience, conditioning, and carpool info to Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Co-Ldr: Jack Kieffer

Sep 18/ Sat NEW!



Leadership Training Committee

Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar: Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC to register for October 2, 2010 seminar. Next seminar will be given in the Spring of 2011.

Outings Leader Directory

Unless indicated by a letter "c" (cell), "w" (work), the numbers listed are home phone numbers and should be respected as such. To reserve your place on an outing, contact the leader as specified in the trip description. Include an information sheet with the following information: your name, address, home & work phone numbers, your WTC leader's name, the outing you wish to join, your experience, your physical conditioning program and whether you need or can offer a ride.

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Zinn, Jeffery	jeffreyzinn@lordleiter.com

September, continued

Sep 18-19/Sat-Sun **NEW!**



WTC, Desert Peaks Section

I/Glass Mountain Ridge (11,140')

This outstanding DPS peak dominates the Upper Owens River Basin. This highpoint of the Benton Range is considered a volcanic peak and has outstanding views of the Sierras, Mono Lake, and the White Mountains. This is an easy paced WTC experience trip with plenty of time to explore and practice navigation. 6 mi. rt, 1900' of gain (less than 200' gain to camp). Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Robert Myers, Co-Ldr: Regge Bulman.

Sep 19/Sun **NEW!**



WTC, 20-30's singles, LB Group, PVSB

O/WTC Introductory Hike; Echo Mtn, Inspiration Point and Muir Peak (4688')

Hike the Sam Merrill trail to the historic railway and resort area at Echo Mtn, then up Castle Canyon to Inspiration Point and on to Muir Peak. We will return by the Middle Merrill trail. Trip is a total of 12 miles with 2900 ft of gain. Leaders will provide an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins January 2011. Subjects include safe mountain travel, map & compass and wilderness first aid. Meet 9:00 am at the North end of Lake Street at the corner of Lake and Loma Alta Street in Alta Dena by the "Gate". This is a residential neighborhood so be mindful of parking regulations and residents' quiet enjoyment of their neighborhood. Bring 2-3 liters of water, lunch, lugsoles, hat and layered clothing. Ldr: David Meltzer, Co-Ldr: Gary Novotny

Sep 24-26/Fri-Sun **NEW!**



Wilderness Adventures, WTC

I/Florence Pk (12,432'), Rainbow Mtn (12,043'), Tulare Pk (11,654')

Moderately strenuous 14 mi rt backpack in Mineral King area of Sequoia NP with climb of one of the more famous peaks (and two lesser known peaks) in the Franklin Pass area of the park. Fri backpack 7 mi, 3200' gain from end of road in Mineral King up moderately steep trail to almost 10,600' near Franklin Lakes and set up camp. If time and strength of group permits, climb of Rainbow Peak after camp is set up. Sat xc, talus and scree climb of Florence Peak and Tulare Peak. Sun pack out and drive home. WTC grads welcome. Not suitable for beginners. Send email or 2 sase, phones, recent backpacking experience/conditioning, \$5 permit fee (Wilderness Adventures) to Ldr: David Coplen, Co-Ldr: Mark Mitchell

Sep 24-26 Fri-Sun **NEW!**



20's/30's

I/Big Bear Cabin Adventure, Cross Country Treasure Hunt, & Sugarloaf Mtn. (9952')

Leader has rented a 3 bedroom, 2 bath Big Bear cabin with full kitchen & hot tub that backs to the national forest next to Snow Summit Ski Area. Bring food, drinks to share for a Friday night poolside BBQ at 7pm. Well eat out on Saturday night after a 3-4 hour (4-5 mile) treasure hunt using a map and compass in rugged terrain beginning at 4pm. You'll work as a team to locate a hidden treasure using a map and compass. Sun. 10am Climb Sugarloaf Mountain (9952), 7 miles, 1600 gain. Cost: \$50 for cabin stay, including basic breakfast & lunch supplies. Meeting location sent to participants before trip. For details, email Ldr: Mountain Dave Kuhn, Asst. Ldr: Gary Novotny

Sep 25-26/Sat-Sun



WTC

I/Silver Peak, (11,878')

Experience trip for leaders and WTC students. Sat backpack from Lake Thomas Edison to camp at the Devil's Bathtub, 5 mi, 1600'. Climb Silver Peak, 9 mi rt, 2700'. Sunday pack out. Send 2 sase or 1 SASE and e-mail, \$5 permit fee, recent experience and conditioning, H&W phones, and rideshare info to Ldr: Neal Robbins. Co-Ldr: Mike Dillenback

Sep 26/Sun



LTC, WTC, Hundred Peaks, Desert Pks, Sierra Pks

I/Grinnell Ridge Navigation

Navigation Noodle in San Bernardino National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Harry Freimanis

September, continued

Sep 29/Wed



LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

O/Workshop: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP2) – Basic Safety System

First of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today's indoor evening workshop of 4 hours reviewing ropes, knots, harnesses, helmets, and basic climbing gear will take place in Pasadena. Based on Ch. 9 of Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills, 7th ed. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: Pat McKusky

October

Oct 2/Sat



LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/E R/Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP2) – Belaying

2nd of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on belaying and principles of anchor building. Based on Ch. 10 of Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills, 7th ed. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: Pat McKusky

Oct 2-3/Sat-Sun **NEW!**



WTC

I/Quail Mountain (5813')

Need a last minute trip to graduate? Join us on this easy paced but moderately strenuous 14 mi. rt 1800' gain backpack. Participants will enjoy spectacular desert scenery and views from summit peak. Saturday easy paced 4 miles to camp, set up, then 5 miles round trip to Quail and back to camp for happy hour. We will encounter some rough, rocky sections on Quail. Great opportunity to practice your navigation skills. Send sase or sase, contact info and recent conditioning to Ldr: Monica Suva, Asst: Sarah Myers Rebensdorf

Oct 9/Sat



LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/E R/Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP2) – Rappelling

3rd of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on rappelling. Based on Ch. 11 of Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills, 7th ed. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: Pat McKusky

Oct 9/Sat **NEW!**



LTC, WTC, HPS

I/Beginning Navigation Clinic

Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass in our local mountains. Beginners to rusty old-timers welcome, and practice is available at all skill levels. Not a checkout, but it will help you prepare. Many expert leaders will attend; many I-rated leaders started here in the past. 4 mi, 500' gain. Send sase, phones, \$25 deposit (payable to Sierra Club, refunded at trailhead) to Ldr: Diane Dunbar, Co-Ldr: Richard Boardman

Oct 9-10/Sat-Sun



WTC

I/"Really Last Chance" Graduation Trip

Easy paced backpacking trip. We will take exploratory cross-country routes in the Queen Valley area, taking in a peak along the way. Learn about the Wilderness Travel Course or satisfy WTC requirements on this "really last chance" graduation trip. 9 mi rt, 1000' gain. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldr: Chi Choi.

WTC Newsletter

October, continued

WTC Newsletter

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Vol 21, No. 3 Summer 2010

Oct 10/Sun **NEW!**



WTC, 20's/30's. LB, PVSB

O/WTC Introductory Hike; Mt. Wilson / Manzanita Ridge

Invigorating conditioning hike at a moderate pace. 10-mile r/t, 4000' gain. Leaders will provide an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins January '11. Subjects include safe mountain travel, map & compass and wilderness first aid. This is a residential neighborhood so be mindful of parking regulations and residents' quiet enjoyment of their neighborhood. Meet 9 am at trailhead. Mira Monte Ave and Mt Wilson Trail Dr. Take I-210 to Baldwin Ave exit, take Baldwin N to Mira Monte, Right to trailhead. Bring hiking boots, 3 ltrs water, snacks to share. Ldr: David Meltzer, Co-Ldr: Gary Novotny

Oct 10/Sun **NEW!**



Desert Peaks Section, WTC

I/Porter Peak (9,101') and Sentinel Peak (9,634')

Meet Saturday late afternoon in Ballarat to consolidate in 4WD vehicles for drive up Pleasant Valley Canyon to camp near base of Porter. Early Sunday climb Porter, continue following ridge to Sentinel, and then retrace route back to camp for drive home, 11 miles, 5500' gain round trip. Be prepared for a rather long day and lots of gain. Send e-mail (preferred) or sase with contact information and recent conditioning to Ldr: Daryn Dodge, Co-Ldr: Kathy Rich.

Oct 16-17/Sat – Sun



LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/E R/Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP2) – Rock Climbing Techniques and Anchors

4th of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. This weekend completes the series of AMP workshops at Joshua Tree National Park and focuses on climbing and anchors. Based on Chaps. 12 & 13 of Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills, 7th ed. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: Pat McKusky

Oct 17/Sun **NEW!**



LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I/Indian Cove Navigation

Navigation noodle to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: Robert Myers Co-Ldr: Phil Wheeler

Oct 22-23/Fri-Sat **NEW!** Hundred Peaks, Palos Verdes – South Bay, WTC
O/Palm Springs Tram (8450'), San Jacinto Peak (10804')



Extremely strenuous hike under a full moon, starting near midnight, 10 mi, 8300' gain to tram with additional 10 mi rt, 2400' gain to the peak. We'll have two groups, hopefully both SJ bound, one faster, the other naturalizing along the way. Of course, any who wish can head back down at the tram after a mere 8300' gain. Not for beginners. Bring money for tram ride and taxi back to cars. Send email (preferable — bholchin@cox.net) or sase with cond/exper and carpool info to Ldr: Barry Holchin. Co-Ldrs: Wayne Vollaie, Tony Trull, Kent Schwitkis, Joe Young, Ron Campbell

Oct 29-31/Fri-Sun



LTC, Harwood Lodge, WTC

C: Wilderness First Aid Course

Runs from 8 am Fri to 5:30 pm Sun. Fee includes lodging, meals and practice first aid kit. Proof of CPR within previous 4 years required to enroll. Fee \$205 with SC#/\$215 non-member (full refund through Sept 24). For application send e-mail to Ldr: Steve Schuster

October/November/December

Oct 30-31/Sat-Sun **NEW!**



WTC, OC Sierra Singles

I/Eagle Mt # 1 (5320)

Join us for a Halloween adventure with an 11 mile roundtrip, 2400' gain backpack trip in the remote Eagle Wilderness within the Colorado Desert in Riverside County. We will start Saturday morning with full packs at Cottonwood Springs and visit historic Mastodon Mine before traveling XC to our dry campsite at the base of the Eagle Mts; 3.5 mi, 700' gain to camp. After setting up camp, we will continue our adventure with daypacks XC 2 mi, 1700' gain to summit the highest peak in the Eagle Mts. before returning to camp and dinner under the desert stars. Don't forget to bring your favorite mask for a group photo at the peak and your favorite Halloween desert for Saturday night. With a leisurely wake-up call on Sunday morning, we will pack it up and backpack out to the cars. Costumes are welcome, but not required. Send resume, experience and WTC leader name/group to Ldr: Joe Harvey. Asst: Melissa Kane.

Nov 13-14/Sat-Sun **NEW!**



LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I/Indian Cove Navigation

Navigation noodle to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: Robert Myers Co-Ldr: Phil Wheeler

Nov 13-14/Sat-Sun **NEW!** Palos Verdes - South Bay, Hundred Peaks, WTC
I/Wright (8508'), Pine (9648'), Dawson 9575'), Gobbler's Knob (6955')
and Deep Creek Hot Springs (5' deep)



Help us celebrate the 20th year of our semi-annual Deep Creek HS hike/soak/swim with some more peaks and a Sat. night car camp. Moderately paced 6 mi, 2800' gain to hike the first 3 peaks on Sat., then potluck and camp at Guffey Campground. Sunday early start to hike Gobbler's Knob, then drive to DCHS Trailhead and hike along Deep Creek to the hot springs (12 mi, 3500' gain). Adventure Pass req'd. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, lugs, carcamp items (swim suit optional). No beginners. Plan on spending full day Sunday - it's near Hesperia. Rain cancels. Send email (preferable — bholchin@cox.net) or sase, along with carpool info, cond/exper to Ldr: Barry Holchin. Co-Ldr: Wayne Vollaie

Nov 14/Sun **NEW!**



WTC, 20's/30's. LB, PVSB

O/WTC Introductory Hike, Echo Mtn, Inspiration Point and Muir Peak (4688')

Hike the Sam Merrill trail to the historic railway and resort area at Echo Mtn, then up Castle Canyon to Inspiration Point and on to Muir Peak. We will return by the Middle Merrill trail. Trip is a total of 12 miles with 2900 ft of gain. Leaders will provide an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins January 2011. Subjects include safe mountain travel, map & compass and wilderness first aid. Meet 9:00 am at the North end of Lake Street at the corner of Lake and Loma Alta Street in Alta Dena by the "Gate". This is a residential neighborhood so be mindful of parking regulations and resident's quiet enjoyment of their neighborhood. Bring 2-3 liters of water, lunch, lugsoles, hat and layered clothing. Ldr: David Meltzer, Co-Ldr: Gary Novotny

Dec 5/Sun **NEW!**



WTC, 20's/30's. LB, PVSB

O/WTC Introductory Hike, Mt. Wilson / Manzanita Ridge

Invigorating conditioning hike at a moderate pace. 10-mile r/t, 4000' gain. Leaders will provide an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins January 2011. Subjects include safe mountain travel, map & compass and wilderness first aid. This is a residential neighborhood so be mindful of parking regulations and resident's quiet enjoyment of their neighborhood. Meet 9 am at trailhead. Mira Monte Ave and Mt Wilson Trail Dr. Take I-210 to Baldwin Ave exit, take Baldwin N to Mira Monte, Right to trailhead. Bring hiking boots, 3 ltrs water, snacks to share. Ldr: David Meltzer, Co-Ldr: Gary Novotny

Fun Housing Options at Snow Camp *by Sandy Lara*

An Igloo, Snow Cave, Snow Trenches, and other Nocturnal Dwellings for Snow Camp

"It's much colder than it was at J-Tree, but I am more comfortable because I am better prepared." —overheard multiple times at North Lake. While these students were talking mostly about clothing and food preparation, making sure that you have a warm, dry place to sleep is crucial as well. This year, LBSB Group 2 decided to make a push to get to North Lake early so we could build an igloo, while a few other leaders had their sights set on smaller structures made possible by the pretty good quality snow we had.

The Igloo:

Peter and Sandy Lara decided they wanted to bring the comfort and quiet of home with them this year, and picked up an IceBox Igloo maker to support the construction of an 8-foot diameter igloo with enough height to stand up inside, at least for some of us less vertically gifted folks. As it was the first time using the tool, things took a little while, but in the end they had a VERY sturdy building that remained comfortably above freezing, so water could be left inside. Had the igloo been built at the beginning of the season, it would have certainly remained through March. As an added bonus, the igloo was dark and quiet, allowing them to sleep a little later than those of us awakened by the sun.

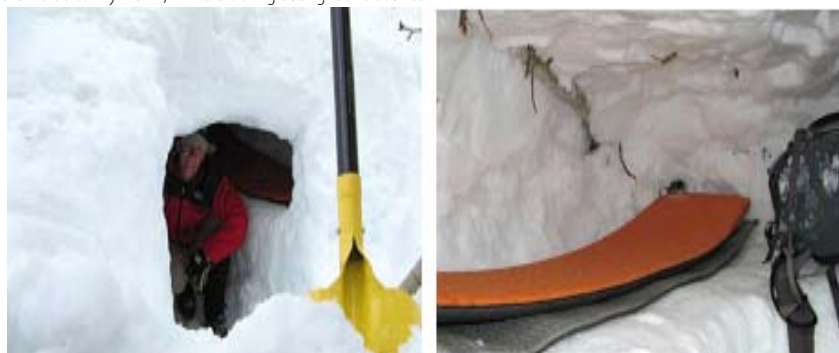


Snow Cave:

The Kieffer brothers, Jack and Rod, noticed a deep snowpack of fairly solid snow on a hillside next to camp, and decided to build a snow cave Saturday afternoon. While it requires a whole lot of careful digging to make sure that the roof remains stable, they were able to dig out a little walkway, with a bed on either side. That required the cave to be at least 6 feet deep so you could lie down, and 6-8 feet wide, to give room for two people and a walkway. While spacious for sleep, the cave was not built to walk around in, at around 5 feet tall at its highest space. Again, the snow was a great insulator, retaining heat and keeping the inside comfy warm, while blocking out light and sound.

Snow Trenches:

The next structure built was a snow trench, crudely described as a coffin dug into the ground with an A-frame roof. Having read up on the construction in *Freedom of the Hills*, 6'6" Mike Kanne dug a 3 foot deep hole about 2 feet wide 9 feet long. For the roof, blocks of snow about 2 feet long, 15 inches wide, and 6 inches thick were leaned up against each other from either side, creating a sloping roof. With a little bit of snow added to patch the joint, and a block at the foot of the shelter to prevent wind from sweeping through, the shelter was complete. Seeing what was going on, and being adventurous, Fabian Sandoval decided to build his own. With a little instruction from Mike, he put up a second snow trench.



2 Person Modified Snow Shelter:

KC Reid and Victoria Overbey were initially content to put up a tent. However, when they were digging their vestibule, they decided they wanted more, and kept on digging. The removed snow was piled on the sides, creating a wind screen, and the vestibule was widened to comfortably accommodate both of them, with little shelves dug in for storage of items they wanted accessible during the night. The rain fly from their tent acted as a cover, to help trap in heat, but they draped it in such a way as to still allow a view of the stars.

Tarp:

The last option, other than the standard tent, and the author's preference due to severe laziness, is to pull out a ground cloth, or rain fly in a pinch, and just lay your sleeping pad on top. With a warm sleeping bag and no severe weather or wind expected, you can be toasty warm, and be rewarded with being able to watch the stars if you wake up during the night. If it starts snow-

ing, or if the wind picks up, you would be darn happy to have a space reserved for you on the floor of the igloo though.

So while you will certainly want to bring a tent, there are many other options for sleeping accommodations at Snow Camp. Depending on how much time you have, and the quality of the snow, you can build some sizable, and quite comfortable, habitats that will last the weekend and beyond. Since our permit required demolition of all structures (which should always be done anyway, unless they are very well marked), these no longer remain, but the igloo would certainly be able to last all season, providing a cozy shelter to any passerby.



WTC Newsletter

Wilderness Photography Part III by Gary Novotny

Lesson 4 (Getting out of Auto Pilot)

As the cover of the Newsletter attempts to demonstrate, anyone can fly a plane using Auto Pilot, but is this the “best” way? How many pilots do you suppose the Air Force trains to use Auto Pilot and then says – okay, you’re a fighter pilot now? So we can see that using automation is easy, but taking control yourself can produce much better results.

When I mention manual settings in cameras, most of the people that I meet are scared to death about the topic. However, in my previous article, I started to wean you out of the “point and shoot (aka Auto Pilot)” mode that makes digital photography so easy and instead use a manual control called “White Balance”. After this article was published, I spoke to readers who commented on how easy it was to perform this adjustment properly. They are now starting to get comfortable with taking some of the control out of the hands of the computer in the camera and returning it to a much smarter being – you!

Now that you have White Balance under control, let’s introduce another adjustment that is just as easy to perform. To make this adjustment, you will probably have to refer to the documentation that came with your camera. Look in the index for ISO. Follow the instructions on how to set the ISO. You will notice that in your camera it is currently set to Auto. The other available options will be numbers such as 80, 100, 200, 400, etc. Set your camera to use the lowest number available. On my camera, it is 80, but many cameras have 100 as the lowest ISO setting. Just like White Balance, now that it is set, you may never have to change it. I always have my camera set to an ISO of 80 when I am taking photos in the wilderness. Congratulations, you are now wrestling control away from the computer as you have now mastered two manual controls!

Now that you are comfortable with two manual controls on your camera, it is time to take you out of your comfort zone again – this time way out. We are going to go where you have never gone before. Yes, we are going to take the computer completely out of the equation and go into full manual mode! Wipe the sweat from your brow and just follow along. I will keep this as simple as possible and once again give you a simple set of rules to follow that are easy to remember and use during your outings. Remember, these articles are geared towards taking photographs on your trips, so the only items that you will need are your digital camera and the knowledge that you gained from my simple tips.

So, without further ado, let’s get started. When you look at your camera, you should have some type of wheel that you have set to AUTO and have probably never changed. I am sure that you have seen all of the other options available on this wheel and probably have wondered what these options will cause to change in your camera. My camera has 13 different options on the wheel. Yours may have more or it may have fewer, but the good news is that it doesn’t matter. Why? Because you only need to know about one of them – the M position. Your camera may instead say Manual or Man or possible something else, but your camera documentation will correctly identify the proper setting for Manual mode.

When you are shooting in Manual mode, you completely eliminate the internal computer from making decisions about what the picture will look like. The computer does a good job of taking good pictures, but it is up to you to start taking great photographs! How many times has your camera made such a great decision that the Wow factor was present? I’m going to go out on a limb and say that it rarely happens.

What decisions does the camera make for you in Auto mode? In order to explain this, I am going to have to get a little technical, but stay with me. In Auto mode, the computer will determine the Shutter Speed, Aperture and Depth of Field. Let’s see what this camera techno speak really means.

- **Shutter Speed** – Digital cameras have sensors that measure light. This light comes through the lens and is recorded by the sensor. If there is too much light hitting the sensor, the resulting picture turns out white (“over exposed” in camera techno speak). If too little light is recorded by the sensor, the resulting picture turns out black (“under exposed”). One method to control how much light reaches the sensor is through Shutter Speed. Think of a cover sitting over the sensor. When you remove the cover, the sensor starts collecting light. When the cover is put back on, it stops collecting light. If you have the cover removed for just the correct amount of time, then the resulting picture is not white, it is not black, but contains all of the colors that we see with our eyes. This cover in a camera is called the Shutter. Shutter Speed is the amount of time that the Shutter is open allowing light to reach the sensor. For example, the Shutter Speed may be set to only allow light in for 1/200 of a second. Refer to your manual on how to change the Shutter Speed on your camera.



Continued on next page

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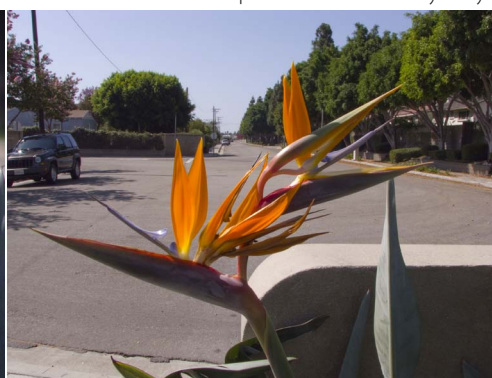
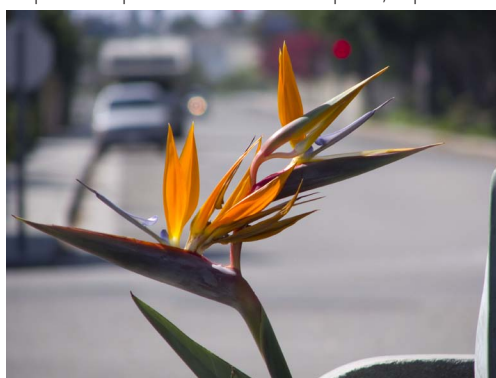
- **Aperture** – This mechanism also controls how much light reaches the sensor. You may have noticed that during a bright day, a person's pupil is very small. However, when it starts to get dark, the pupils get much larger. This is how our eyes control how much light reaches the rods and cones in the retina (refer back to your anatomy books). The mechanism in a camera that mimics the pupil is called the Diaphragm. The



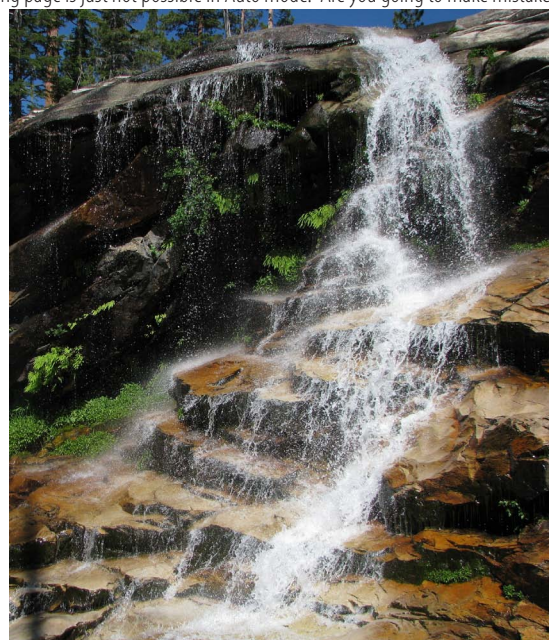
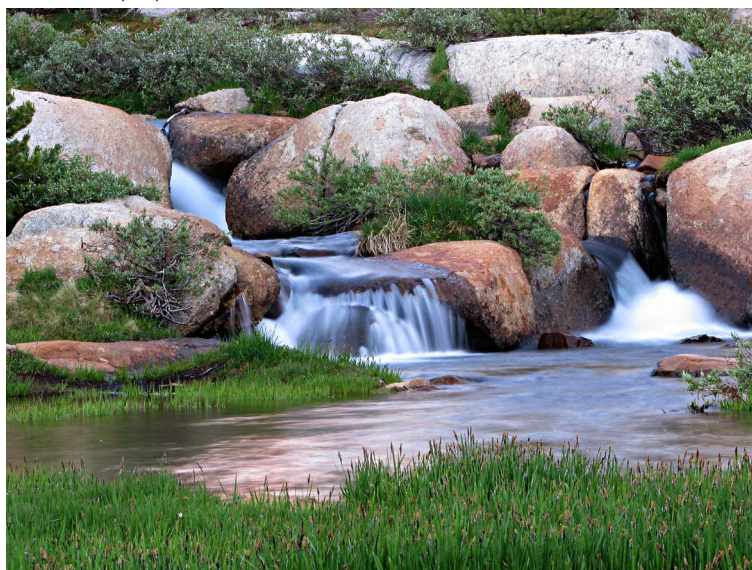
Diaphragm can have a large opening to let in a lot of light or a small opening to let in a small amount of light. Keep in mind though that letting in too much light will cause the picture to be "over exposed" and letting in too little light will cause the picture to be "under exposed". The Diaphragm is what changes when the Aperture setting in a camera is manipulated. The Aperture is set to a number that may look like 2.8 or 8.0. These numbers indicate how much light to let into the sensor. These numbers are called F-stops. So the 8.0 number could be called "F-stop of 8 point zero" or could be written as f8.0. Refer to your manual on how to change the Aperture on your camera.



- **Depth Of Field** – Unlike Shutter Speed and Aperture that both control exposure, Depth of Field determines how much of the photo is in focus. When your eyes look around, everything that you see appears to be in focus (if not, put on your glasses and try again). In cameras, some areas of a picture may be in focus, while other may be out of focus. Generally speaking, you will now be able to decide how much focus to include in your photographs by changing the Depth of Field. While Shutter Speed and Aperture can be set directly on your camera, Depth of Field does not have a button that you press to change a value. Instead, Depth of Field is determined by your Aperture setting and the amount of zoom used on your lens. Don't worry at this point about how to set this, it will be covered later. The left photo was taken at f3.5, 1/800 sec, 12x zoom. The right photo was taken at f8.0, 1/160 sec, no zoom.



So, basically using Manual mode lets us control the exposure of the photograph and also to indirectly change the Depth of Field. That's it – nothing more! That's not too scary, is it? But wait... the computer was already doing that for us, so why would we want to have control instead? We want to be able to determine how the viewer of our pictures are impacted by the final image. If you want the viewer to see this (1st photograph below), but your camera decides it wants the viewer to see this (2nd photograph below), then you must turn off the computer. When the computer is in control, you never know what it will decide to do (remember HAL in 2001 A Space Odyssey?). You are the one that needs to have the vision of what you want the final image to convey. For example, the photograph on the following page is just not possible in Auto mode. Are you going to make mistakes in Manual mode? You certainly will, but with the guidelines that I will give you shortly, you should be able to mostly stay out of trouble.



WTC Newsletter

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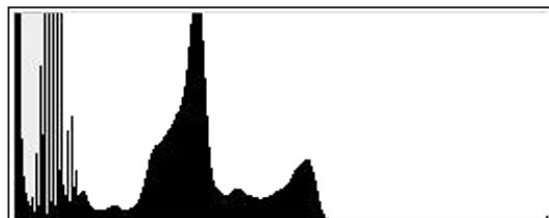
Vol 21, No. 3 Summer 2010



This photo could not be taken in Auto mode because the computer in the camera will want to have the person in the foreground to be properly exposed. I however, wanted to create a silhouette with the sunset in the background. This was done by making the Shutter Speed much faster than the computer would normally choose. On the prior page, the first water shot was taken at $f/8.0$, 1.6 seconds, 4x zoom. The second water shot was taken at $f/2.7$, 1/1600 sec, no zoom. The slow Shutter Speed gives the water a dreamy, cloudy look. The fast Shutter Speed causes the water droplets to be frozen in time and remain separate from the rest of the water.

Before I give you the simple guidelines, I need to introduce you to one more feature in your camera. Go into your camera documentation and look in the index for Histogram. Follow the directions to turn the Histogram "on". You will always keep the Histogram "on".

The Histogram is a graph that visually shows you how the light is hitting the sensor. The diagram on the right shows the Histogram for the silhouette picture above. The left side of the Histogram shows dark colors (nearing black) and the right side shows light colors (nearing white). You can see that there is lot pure black in the persons silhouette (because of the high bar on the far left), some near black in the background mountains (there are several lines bunched together near the left), some dark blue in the sky (the large spike just left of center) and finally the orange sun (represented by the smaller bump just right of center). Notice that there are no whites found in this shot. Below shows a snowy photograph with the Histogram superimposed. The Histogram will be used to help us set the correct exposure.



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Now we just need to know what values to use for Shutter Speed and Aperture. Here are the proper guidelines.

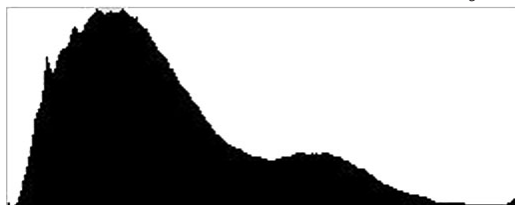
- First, set your zoom. Generally, you want your viewfinder to include all of the important aspects of the picture and to exclude any item that would distract from the final product. Therefore, if you have a scene that has an interesting looking rock formation next to a road, the entire rock formation should be in the photo, but your car sitting on the side of the road should not be part of the picture. You may want to review Lesson 3 (Composition) in the previous article. Once you know how to compose the photograph properly, you may be able to use more or less zoom by moving forward or back. Changing your distance to your subject will affect the amount of zoom needed and the amount of zoom used will affect your final picture. Changing zoom will change the Depth of Field (discussed below). When it is possible to change the distance to your subject, attempt to set the zoom based on:

◇ Use as little zoom as possible for landscapes, mountains, lakes and vistas — any subject that is very large. For these types of photos, you typically want to see as much as possible anyway. By using little or no zoom, this will help keep the entire landscape in focus.

◇ Use as much zoom as possible for smaller subjects. Any time that you want your subject to pop out from the background, use as much zoom as possible. Certainly anything from person size or smaller, you will probably want to use as much zoom as possible. The larger the zoom, the more the background will be out of focus and allow your subject to become the center of attention.

- Second, set your Aperture. This is very simple. If you are taking a picture of something relatively large (e.g. a mountain or a landscape), use the largest number available for the zoom chosen (e.g. f 11.0). If you are taking a picture of something relatively small (e.g. a person), use the smallest number available for the chosen zoom (e.g. f 2.8). Remember, large items = large Aperture number, small items = small Aperture number.

- Third, set the Shutter Speed so that the right most portion of the Histogram graph is almost touching the right edge. The Histogram should look like this graph on the right. You now have Shutter Speed and Aperture set properly to take your photograph.



- Forth, after taking the picture with the proper Aperture and Shutter Speed, make the Shutter Speed faster by one or two numbers and take another picture. I usually change Shutter Speed by two numbers. For example, let's say that the proper exposure has a Shutter Speed of 1/800 of a second. When I change my Shutter Speed once, it goes to 1/900 of a second and doing it a second time takes me to 1/1000 of a second. Therefore, I would take my second picture at 1/1000 of a second.

- Fifth, make the Shutter Speed one or two numbers slower than the proper setting. In the above example, I am now set at 1/1000 of a second, so I need to adjust the Shutter Speed by 4 increments (1/1000 to 1/900 to 1/800 to 1/700 to 1/600) and take a third picture. So I now have one picture at 1/800, one at 1/1000 and one at 1/600 Shutter Speed. This is called Bracketing. If you really want to get the perfect shot, you could take 5 pictures — 1/800, 1/900, 1/1000, 1/700 and 1/600. You could also go really crazy and add one more to each end of the Bracket by also setting the Speed to 1/1100 and 1/500. The exact number of pictures that you take is unimportant, but you should do a minimum of 3. One of these multiple pictures will look the best and will be the one that you keep. You will never have to tell anyone that you took 5 photos just to get the one perfect picture, just let them be amazed at how skilled you are in photography. The photos below demonstrate bracketing your exposures.



- As you make your Shutter Speed slower (e.g. 1/500) and your Histogram shows a spike on the far right, you can elect to skip taking this photo. This is called "clipping". The spike on the far right indicates that portions of the picture are going to be over exposed (clipped) and you will lose detail information (color and texture) and you will never recover it. If you have lots of space on your chip, you may elect to take the photo anyway since the only drawback is using up memory on your card.



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So what about Depth of Field? I presented it earlier, but I did not mention it in the above guidelines. Generally speaking, when you take a picture of a mountain or any type of landscape, you want it all to be in focus (a large Depth of Field), but when you have a person as your subject, you want your viewer to have their attention on the person not whatever is behind that person. In this second case, you want the person to be in focus and the background out of focus (a shallow Depth of Field). By following the above guidelines, the proper Depth of Field will automatically be created.

For those who want to know a little more about Depth of Field, you can continue to read this paragraph; the others may skip to the following paragraph. The main determination of Depth of Field is the Aperture setting (F-stop). A small number (e.g. $f1.4$) will give a very small Depth of Field, so if your subject is 5 feet in front of you, then perhaps the items 4.9 to 5.1 feet in front of you will be in focus and everything else will be out of focus. Conversely, a $f22.0$ Aperture setting would perhaps have everything from 2 feet to 5 miles in focus. The F-stop is not the only component in Depth of Field. The amount of zoom also contributes. The more that you zoom in (close up), the more the Depth of Field becomes shallower. The more that you zoom out (wide angle), the more the Depth of Field looks larger. So, when you take a landscape picture you typically have a wide angle zoom to get as much of the landscape as possible. When combined with a large F-stop, this causes a large Depth of Field and everything that you see is in focus. When you are taking a picture of a person's face, you zoom in to get close. When combined with a low F-stop, this causes a shallow Depth of Field so the person's face is in focus but the background is blurred. So, when you want to have a very shallow Depth of Field, you always want to zoom in as much as possible (and use the smallest F-stop) — correct? Not necessarily. Unfortunately, due to how the optics in the camera lens is made, as you zoom in, the lowest F-stop available becomes larger. So at wide angle, the lowest F-stop may be $f2.4$, but as you zoom in, the lowest F-stop may now be $f5.6$. Since the Aperture affects Depth of Field more than the zoom does, you may have to actually decrease the zoom to get a very shallow Depth of Field. The exact effects will depend on how much zoom you have available on your camera and how wide your F-stop range can be set (e.g. $f2.4$ to $f22.0$ would be exceptionally wide).

It has taken many words to explain how to use Manual mode instead of Auto mode. Once you start using Manual mode consistently, you will see that it does not take too long to get the settings proper. It should only take 5 — 10 seconds to get take the first picture and another 2 — 5 seconds to get each Bracketed photo. Do I always use Manual mode? The short answer is no. There are times when my subject will only be present for a few seconds (e.g. a bird getting ready to take to flight). In these rare cases, in about one second I can switch the wheel to point to Auto and take the picture before it disappears forever.

While it all may seem complicated at the moment, it really just boils down to a few set of rules:

Rules

1. Set ISO to the lowest available setting
2. Never use auto mode, always use Manual mode
3. First, set your zoom. If possible use lots of zoom when your subject is the size of a person or smaller and no zoom for landscapes.
4. Set your Aperture: Mountains are large, so use the largest Aperture setting; people are small, so use the smallest Aperture setting
5. Use the Histogram to verify proper exposure as you change the Shutter Speed
6. Bracket your exposure by taking multiple pictures of the same subject varying the Shutter Speed (some faster and some slower than the original picture)
7. Never let the Histogram get clipped on the right side of the graph

Special Cases

Are you comfortable with the Rules as stated above? If not, you may want to practice with these techniques until you are getting the results that you are expecting. Once you reach that point, then you can come back here and read about some special cases that you may run across during your photographic journey.

All of the discussion to this point is for general cases. There are times when the general rules need to be broken in order to capture the photograph that you envision. While you will probably break the rules infrequently, you will want to know when it is appropriate.

First, let's take a look at the Aperture setting. Generally, you will set the Aperture to the highest value when large items are your subject (like a mountain) and to the smallest value when your subject is small (a person). The reason that we use these settings is to affect Depth of Field. We can use the Aperture setting to dramatically change the outcome of the captured scene. When we use a large F-stop, this reduces the amount of light hitting the sensor. When the amount of light reaching the sensor is small, the Shutter Speed has to slow down in order to get the proper exposure. When you have a slow Shutter Speed, interesting effects can be created. On page 13, the long shutter speed used on the flowing water is one example of creating a specialized effect.

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Another possible reason to change the Aperture is in reaction to the amount of light available. If it is an extremely bright day and there is snow on the ground, it is possible to overexpose a scene even at the fastest Shutter Speed. In this case, you would want to make the Aperture smaller (using a larger F-stop) so that the Histogram looks correct at the fastest Shutter Speed. Or, if it is getting to be dusk and the Shutter Speed is getting to be too slow to take a photo with creating blur, then you want to make let additional light in by making the Aperture larger (using a smaller F-stop) and making the Shutter Speed faster.

Above, I mentioned the Shutter Speed being too slow. What is "too slow"? This will vary considerable based on the anti-shake (aka "steady shot") capability of your camera, the way that you hold the camera, the amount of zoom being used and a variety of other factors. Generally speaking, a Shutter Speed of 1/60 of a second or faster will work okay. If you are able to hold the camera very still, then 1/20 or 1/15 of a second could work. Values slower than these will start to require a tripod or the equivalent.

Now let's take a look at the Histogram. Generally, you want to have your Shutter Speed such that the right most portion of the Histogram graph is very close to the edge of the display. You don't want a spike on the right edge indicating that the whites have been clipped.

What if you are taking a photo that contains a lot of very bright whites and also a lot of very dark blacks? The sensor in your camera is only able to capture a certain amount of difference between the brightest whites and the darkest blacks. When there is a very large difference, the camera can't capture all of the detail that is present. When this happens, you will be forced to clip some of the detail. You can choose to clip the whites (see how the snow has lost detail and looks flat), some of the blacks (see how the inside of the cabin has lost detail) or some of both (a little bit of snow and a little bit of shadows has lost detail). How do you decide what to clip? Well, you could just start with just the whites being clipped and keep changing the exposure slightly until just the blacks are clipped. One of these 8 to 12 photos will give you the best possible exposure. Another possible solution is to look at your subject. If your subject is mostly comprised of very light colors, then clip the blacks. If however, your subject is mostly comprised of very dark colors, then clip the whites. In either case, Rule 6 dictates that you will be taking multiple pictures with various exposures.



Conclusion

If you are ready to put some Wow into your photographs try to use Manual mode as much as possible. This article gave general guidelines on how to set the ISO, Aperture, and Shutter Speed. Now that you know how to use these controls, experiment! Break the rules and see what happens. Most of the time when you break the rules, you will get a picture that is destined to be deleted, but every so often, you will capture a photograph that is a "keeper" that would not have been possible without trying new techniques. As long as you have space available on your memory card, the only cost for experimenting is a bit of battery drain.

Starting to use Manual mode may be a difficult transition to start with, but will be well worth it in the long run.